

EMAIL EXCHANGE NANOTHERMITE: GRISCOM-RANCOURT-HARRIT

From: **David Griscom** <>

Date: Sun, Dec 19, 2010 at 10:02 PM

Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

To: Denis Rancourt <>

Cc: Niels Harrit <>, Graeme MacQueen <>, Anthony Hall <>, Kevin Barrett <>, Jeremy Rothe-Kushel <>, Paul McArthur <>, Frances Shure <>, Charlotte Dennett <>, Patrick Biron <>, Michael Pengue <>, Michel Chossudovsky <>, Barry Zwicker <>, Jacques Marcille <>, Heidi Rimke <>, Adnan Zuberi <>, Jason <understandingdeeppolitics.org>, Carol Brouillet <>, Noel Glynn <>, STS <splitting_the_sky>, John Duddy <>, John McMurtry <>, "Dr. M. Elmasry" <>, Steve Jones <>

Dennis,

Yes, I was a referee.

And it's part (c) of Figs. 10 and 15.

And, yes, I truly seek the truth (its's [the name of my blog](#)).

But I really, really don't want to get into an endless loop of what ifs.

Truly the way science advances is by peer reviewed publications.

Dave

Just to clarify David:

Were you a referee or an editor for this paper by Harrit et al.?

Regarding the first point about Al. Niels has recognized my criticism and has started to provide an answer by explaining a criterion he has used to rule out Al from the Al sample holder. I recognize that Niels is not an SEM or EDX expert but he was the first author and he has provided an argument for a way out. Problem is: HIS PUBLISHED EDX SPECTRA DO SHOW Mg PEAKS in amounts expected for an Al holder..., which invalidates his criterion unless Niels can show that his aluminum holder was in fact some special metallurgic Al-Mg alloy like I have never seen in my 20 years of SEM/EDX measurements in four different laboratories (McGill, Ottawa-Carleton, Ottawa-my-own-SEM-lab, and NRC).

So it is natural for me to ask the obvious follow up questions.

Maybe you could explain your reason for believing that the Al EDX peaks are not all from the Al holder and how this is "definitive" as you say?

And I would like you to know that I truly seek the truth here and will be happy if my concerns can be answered. I would become a defender of nanothermite.

-denis

On Sun, Dec 19, 2010 at 6:58 PM, David Griscom <> wrote:
Sorry, Dennis, but no we CANNOT!

This is not the way I do science -- that is, excepting when I have to answer pointed questions posed by a *referee*.

In one such case the referee-cum-editor had 63 quasi-hostile questions that he demanded I answer. Many of these had to do with geology, where he was the expert, and he wasn't going to accept my expertise in electron spin resonance unless and until I explained it to him to his satisfaction. It took me several weeks and nearly doubled the length my manuscript in the process, but my heeling to his commands finally proved well worth the effort ([see paper \(3\) here](#)).

However, there is no way I'm going to lend myself to such a grueling process if I don't have the acceptance of a manuscript of mine hanging in the balance.

On the other side of the fence, when I am a referee I take all the time I need to read and understand the manuscript before I pass judgment on - - and then if its any good at all I usually go to the trouble of suggesting ways to improve it. However, I found no fault whatsoever when I read the version of the Harrit et al. paper under discussion here. It follows that evidence for the presence of Al in the red part of the red/gray chips was definitive as far as I'm concerned. So it's game over. I was the umpire who called the last strike in the bottom of the ninth. You can argue with me, but I'm not changing my call.

I've taken part in [one public forum](#) butting heads with an opponent who wouldn't give up no matter how obvious it was that his position had zero probability of being correct. It wasn't pleasant.

I have neither the time nor the patience to ever do this sort of thing again.

I'll stick to publishing and (constructively) refereeing scientific papers.

Thank you for your understanding.

Dave

[[[ETC. SEE BELOW TO PICK UP STRING AGAIN]]]

%%%

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Niels Harrit <>
Date: Mon, Dec 20, 2010 at 8:27 PM
Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement
To: Niels Harrit <>, Denis Rancourt <>, David Griscom <>
Cc: Graeme MacQueen <>, Anthony Hall <>, Kevin Barrett <>, Jeremy Rothe-Kushel <>, Paul McArthur <>, Frances Shure <>, Charlotte Dennett <>, Patrick Biron <>, Michael Pengue <>, Michel Chossudovsky <>, Barry Zwicker <>, Jacques Marcille <>, Heidi Rimke <>, Adnan Zuberi <>, Jason <understandingdeep politics.org>, Carol Brouillet <>, Noel Glynn <>, STS <splitting_the_sky>, John Duddy <>, John McMurtry <>, "Dr. M. Elmasry" <>, Steve Jones <>

Answer is delayed due to family commitments related to the coming holidays.
NH

----- Original Message -----

From: [Niels Harrit](#)
To: [Denis Rancourt](#) ; [David Griscom](#)
Cc: [Graeme MacQueen](#) ; [Anthony Hall](#) ; [Kevin Barrett](#) ; [Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#) ; [Paul McArthur](#) ; [Frances Shure](#) ; [Charlotte Dennett](#) ; [Patrick Biron](#) ; [Michael Pengue](#) ; [Michel Chossudovsky](#) ; [Barry Zwicker](#) ; [Jacques Marcille](#) ; [Heidi Rimke](#) ; [Adnan Zuberi](#) ; [Jason](#) ; [Carol Brouillet](#) ; [Noel Glynn](#) ; [STS](#) ; [John Duddy](#) ; [John McMurtry](#) ; [Dr. M. Elmasry](#) ; [Steve Jones](#)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2010 9:26 AM
Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

Hi,

I'll be back with a response tonight - my time.

NH

----- Original Message -----

From: [Denis Rancourt](#)
To: [David Griscom](#)
Cc: [Niels Harrit](#) ; [Graeme MacQueen](#) ; [Anthony Hall](#) ; [Kevin Barrett](#) ; [Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#) ; [Paul McArthur](#) ; [Frances Shure](#) ; [Charlotte Dennett](#) ; [Patrick Biron](#) ; [Michael Pengue](#) ; [Michel Chossudovsky](#) ; [Barry Zwicker](#) ; [Jacques Marcille](#) ; [Heidi Rimke](#) ; [Adnan Zuberi](#) ; [Jason](#) ; [Carol Brouillet](#) ; [Noel Glynn](#) ; [STS](#) ; [John Duddy](#) ; [John McMurtry](#) ; [Dr. M. Elmasry](#) ; [Steve Jones](#)
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2010 3:40 AM
Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

I see:

<http://911blogger.com/news/2010-12-02/peer-reviewer-active-thermitic-materials-paper-identifies-himself-great>
<http://impactglassman.blogspot.com/2010/09/911-truth-evidence-of-energetic.html>

oh lala

-denis

On Sun, Dec 19, 2010 at 9:21 PM, Denis Rancourt <> wrote:

Just to clarify David:

Were you a referee or an editor for this paper by Harrit et al.?

Regarding the first point about Al. Niels has recognized my criticism and has started to provide an answer by explaining a criterion he has used to rule out Al from the Al sample holder. I recognize that Niels is not an SEM or EDX expert but he was the first author and he has provided an argument for a way out. Problem is: HIS PUBLISHED EDX SPECTRA DO SHOW Mg PEAKS in amounts expected for an Al holder..., which invalidates his criterion unless Niels can show that his aluminum holder was in fact some special metallurgic Al-Mg alloy like I have never seen in my 20 years of SEM/EDX measurements in four different laboratories (McGill, Ottawa-Carleton, Ottawa-my-own-SEM-lab, and NRC).

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he was the expert, and he wasn't going to accept my expertise in electron spin resonance unless and until I explained it to him to his satisfaction. It took me several weeks and nearly doubled the length my manuscript in the process, but my heeling to his commands finally proved well worth the effort ([see paper \(3\) here](#)).

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Thank you for your understanding.

Dave

Hi David,

If we could just do one point at a time please.

Sol-Gel properties have nothing to do with the EDX signal from an aluminum slug sample holder in the SEM measurements.

Your proposal of an alleged sol-gel presence to explain the low activation temperature (i.e., observed low-temperature DSC peak) can then be dealt with later in relation to that point.

Can we do that?

This also has the advantage that if, for example, it is shown that there is no conclusive evidence for Al in the red layer then the rest of the story is rather weakened and we know that conclusive measurements of Al are next needed - so we have a way forward.

-denis

On Sun, Dec 19, 2010 at 1:33 PM, David Griscom <> wrote:

Bravo, Neils!

For the moment at least, you've saved me from doing the "outed referee's" response -- although if anyone thinks it's still needed, I'll consider doing it.

One of the things I'd get into would be the nature of the sol-gel binder. While I'm not an expert in the sol-gel field, I did write the paper of which I attach the first two and penultimate pages. My coauthor there, Jeff Brinker is one of the top experts in sol-gel technology. Still, I write my own papers and I like to understand everything, so I studied a number of works by Jeff in order to write up the introduction in my own words (of course the equations don't change), which he approved as I wrote them.

If, as appears to be the case, sol-gel silica was used as the binder for nano-thermite in the red/gray chips, based on the DSC data the material cannot have been pyrolyzed at temperatures much above 200 C, so a lot of alkyl groups (likely including trisiloxane) should remain. Thus, there would likely be more carbon than silicon in the binder for anneal temperatures equal to or below 600 C. Yet the strength of the porous binder would still be due to the SiO₂ network.

One of the samples Jeff made for me was heated to just 250 C, though I didn't mention this sample in the paper mentioned above. Rather I reported studies of this sample in an earlier paper (ref. [6], its first page attached). Two things I learn from this last attachment is that (1) annealing at merely 250 C results in a mechanically stiff structure (Jeff sent me cylindrical slugs) and (2) *vacuum drying* of silica gels at temperatures of 500 C *and below* results in substantial (well, ~10 to 20 ppm) concentrations of peroxide linkages in the SiO₂ network, which, in intimate contact with encased Al nano-particles, could account for the much lower-than-"normal thermite" ignition temperatures of the red/gray chips.

Dave

Dr. Rancourt

Thank you for your interest in our publication, and the effort you have made to formulate the questions as they appear in

<http://climateguy.blogspot.com/2010/11/peer-review-of-harrit-et-al-on-911-cant.html>

Our answers follow below. Your questions are highlighted in green.

Yours sincerely

Niels Harrit

QUESTION: The Al slugs would give inhomogeneous background Al signals in the EDXA spectra. This was not considered or discussed in the paper. There could be no or little Al in the red-layer.

ANSWER:

When doing a scientific, instrumental investigation, there always is a great number of control experiments, which are implicit to every serious worker in the field. It is understood by the experienced reader, that these tests have been done, since you cannot put every basic control test image or report every bit of supporting data in a journal article. The articles would be so enormous that no one would bother reading them and no journal would possibly care to print them. There are some things that are implied.

Thus, numerous background studies were carried out which were not reported in the red/grey chips paper. Among them, we performed a background study where the SEM beam hit the pedestal directly. We found that the pedestal was not pure aluminum (as you somehow(?) anticipate), but rather an Al-Mg alloy.

Therefore, if we were picking up aluminum signal from the pedestal then we also would have seen Mg.

We did not.

The TEM studies also confirm the presence of aluminum in the red material (in the platelets), and those samples were mounted on a copper holder.

The spread of the electron beam inside the samples was tested and Monte Carlo simulations were performed to get an idea of the interaction volume of the electron beam within the sample. There was NO aluminum signal when the beam was not on the red layer.

To suggest that there is no aluminum in the red layer is ludicrous.

- **QUESTION:** The carbon adhesive tape will give inhomogeneous background C signals in the EDXA spectra. This was not considered or discussed in the paper. There could be no or little C in the red-layer.

ANSWER: Referring to the previous answer, it stands to reason that we acquired control spectra of the carbon tape on the Al stub, as well as on samples NOT mounted to carbon tape.

True, there seems to be carbon everywhere, which is exactly why some spectra were acquired from samples that were NOT mounted to carbon tape to ensure that the C was from the sample and not spurious X-rays from the carbon tape. In fact, one sample was mounted so that the X-ray signal could only possibly originate from within the red layer, and the measurement verified that there is carbon in the red layer.

The amount of carbon in the red layer had not been accurately determined at the time of writing and therefore we only reported qualitatively the presence of the C in the red layer.

Independently, the observation that the red layer swells in methyl ethyl ketone is an unambiguous proof that an organic matrix is present!

QUESTION: There is as much or more Si (silicon) in the EDXA results than Al in all the red-layer results and Si and Al are closely correlated in their spatial distributions (e.g., their Figure 10). No probable explanation is given for this. This is not consistent with the presence of metallic Al.

- ANSWER: Fig. 10 shows the elemental mapping BEFORE soaking the chip in methyl ethyl ketone. Please, compare with Fig. 15.
- **QUESTION:** Oxygen (O) is more closely spatially correlated with Al and Si than with Fe (e.g., their Figure 10). No probable explanation is given for this. This contradicts the conclusion of the presence of metallic Al.
- ANSWER: Fig. 10 shows the elemental mapping BEFORE soaking the chip in methyl ethyl ketone. Please, compare with Fig. 15.
- **QUESTION:** No effort was made to estimate the Fe:Al elemental ratio in the red-layer. Synthetic thermite or nanothermite would have a ratio of 1:1. The point is never discussed.

ANSWER: This ratio is not decisive. According to stoichiometry it should be 1:1. However, in real life there is always more aluminum. One reason is, that every aluminum item exposed to the atmosphere is covered by aluminum oxide. The relative fraction of Al_2O_3 increases as particles get smaller as a simple mathematical consequence.

Wonder where Dr. Rancourt got this information on nanothermite?
Please provide a reference next time.

And what on earth is “synthetic thermite”?

In contrast, from the recipe provided in ref. 25 in our paper, one can derive an Fe/Al ratio of 0.17. But be sure that Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory would never publish a preparation of “the real stuff”.

QUESTION: The exothermic peak in the DSC traces occurs at a temperature (420 C) approximately 90 C below the temperature for the thermite reaction. No explanation is proposed for this. Chemical activation energies of known reactions cannot be so sample dependent, whether nano-sized or not. This is not the thermite reaction.

ANSWER: We do not claim that the red/grey chips are the same material as Tillotson et al. described. Actually, we are pretty sure it is NOT for the same - for reasons given above.

Your statement about activation energies is nonsense. An activation energy is a thermodynamic quantity referring to standard conditions in solution or in the gas phase. That some people take this lightly is another matter. But to postulate a unique correlation between ignition temperature and activation energy in a two-phase solid reaction is ridiculous. Well, maybe you can expect a lower ignition temperature the smaller the particles – as observed.

Of course, all samples have a different ignition temperature (Fig. 19), and of course, different preparations with different compositions will have different ignition temperatures.

And what do you mean by “the temperature for the thermite reaction”? You are going to have a very hard time if you try to search the literature for a well-defined ignition temperature of conventional thermite mixtures. Please, provide a reference next time you come up with such a statement.

Furthermore, in the paper we hypothesize that the organic matrix (plus atmospheric oxygen) is decisive for the low ignition temperature and the overall energy output.

- QUESTION: In the reacted product (after heating in DSC), no Al-oxide is observed as a residue, as required by the thermite reaction. No explanation is given for this.

ANSWER: Obviously, you have never done the experiment. In a conventional thermite reaction, you can observe the aluminum oxide as a white dust cloud (plume) leaving the reaction site. And if you care to watch the videos of the collapse of the WTC towers, you may also observe, that the rocket-projectile fragments, which were ejected up-and-out from the towers, drew white smoke-trails after them. Gypsum from wallboard CANNOT account for this. Take a look!

- **QUESTION:** The obvious needed measurement of X-ray diffraction was not used to confirm the solid mineral species (oxides or metals). This is unacceptable in a materials chemistry paper. This is not considered by the authors.

ANSWER: X-ray diffraction studies on samples as small as these are very far from being a trivial matter. We did not have access to specialized X-ray sources (like synchrotrons) for this study.

- **ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS:** Much is made of the fact that Fe-rich spheroids are present after reaction but there is no discussion of the grey-layer or of the origin of the Si-rich spheroids. Heating causes many things and there is an exothermic reaction so the conclusions about the presence of Fe-rich spheroids (which are reported to contain oxygen) as evidence for the thermite reaction is tenuous.

ANSWER: A scientific paper is a set of data and the best hypothesis rationalizing the observations. Fe-rich spheroids are observed after a thermite reaction. Fe-rich spheroids have never been observed unless there was a thermite reaction.

“Tenuous”?

ALTERNATIVE HYPOTHESIS: Here is an alternative explanation for the observations reported by Harrit et al.

Steel rusts. Rust crusts crack and blow off the steel when physically disrupted.

Rusting steel is one of the most studied materials science problems in engineering.

When steel rusts in a humid building environment it grows a crust composed of layers of different Fe-oxides and Fe-oxyhydroxides. These are stratified micro-layers with successive layers of different Fe-oxides species (wustite, maghemite, hematite, etc.). In a humid atmosphere the outer layers will be Fe-oxyhydroxides such as goethite, lepidocrocite and akaganeite. The latter three Fe-oxyhydroxides have the same chemical formula: FeOOH , and differ only in their crystal structures.

These Fe-oxyhydroxides typically form as nanoparticles and have the same needle and nanoflake-like morphologies as observed here.

When these Fe-oxyhydroxides are heated in a DSC they undergo a solid to solid exothermic reaction of dehydroxilation (loss of OH) and transform from FeOOH to Fe₂O₃ (hematite) at a temperature of approximately 400 C. The temperature of the transformation can vary depending on exact chemical composition, and on the crystal structure, but it is always at approximately 400 C.

Looks like our boys may have been discovering the properties of rusted steel. Steel contains C and Si which would end up in its oxidation products, especially in the oxyhydroxides.

ANSWER:

Sensational.

According to your suggestion, when you heat rust, elemental iron is formed.

I look forward to the publication of this hypothesis in – say - Journal of Inorganic Chemistry (an ACS publication). If supported by observation(!) - be sure it will be accepted promptly and be widely recognized.

Next time you present this hypothesis, the least you can do is to provide it with proper references and observations.

Yours sincerely

Niels Harrit

----- Original Message -----

From: [Denis Rancourt](#)

To: [Niels Harrit](#)

Cc: [Ryan, Kevin](#) ; [Steve Jones](#) ; [Dr. M. Elmasry](#) ; [John McMurtry](#) ; [John Duddy](#) ; [STS](#) ; [Noel Glynn](#) ; [Carol Brouillet](#) ; [Jason](#) ; [Adnan Zuberi](#) ; [Heidi Rimke](#) ; [Jacques Marcille](#) ; [Barry Zwicker](#) ; [Michel Chossudovsky](#) ; [Michael Pengue](#) ; [Patrick Biron](#) ; [Charlotte Dennett](#) ; [Frances Shure](#) ; [Paul McArthur](#) ; [Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#) ; [Kevin Barrett](#) ; [Anthony Hall](#) ; [Graeme MacQueen](#)

Sent: Sunday, November 21, 2010 7:35 PM

Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

Thank you Niels.

Please make your response suitable for public posting.

I hope you will include the solid-phase-identification **diffraction** measurements that I have suggested and that are essential in establishing the presence of a solid species such as crystalline metallic aluminum.

I am pleased that you no longer consider this a "waste of time".

-denis

On Sun, Nov 21, 2010 at 12:29 PM, Niels Harrit <> wrote:

Denis,

I still intend to respond to your criticism of our paper.

But I just haven't had the time yet.

It may be early December.

Niels

----- Original Message -----

From: [Niels Harrit](#)

To: [Denis Rancourt](#)

Cc: [Graeme MacQueen](#) ; [Anthony Hall](#) ; [Kevin Barrett](#) ; [Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#) ; [Paul McArthur](#) ; [Frances Shure](#) ; [Charlotte Dennett](#) ; [Patrick Biron](#) ; [Michael Pengue](#) ; [Michel Chossudovsky](#) ; [Barry Zwicker](#) ; [Jacques Marcille](#) ; [Heidi Rimke](#) ; [Adnan Zuberi](#) ; [Jason](#) ; [Carol Brouillet](#) ; [Noel Glynn](#) ; [STS](#) ; [John Duddy](#) ; [John McMurtry](#) ; [Dr. M. Elmasry](#) ; [Steve Jones](#) ; [Ryan, Kevin](#)

Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2010 12:44 AM

Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

Denis,

Of course I did.

But I found no reason to relate to some irrelevant opinions from some irrelevant person expressed in privat correspondence with you.

Instead I offered my comments about Madame Pileni, who was editor-in-chief at the time of our publication, so you might understand why the course of events is a positive review of our work.

I couldn't care less whether you get this point or not.

Regarding your "scientific" comments: I may get down to them.

But after having experienced your antics and foul play - plus your difficulties with Newtonian Physics and energy balance considerations, your request has dropped a bit down on my list of priorities.

Niels

----- Original Message -----

From: [Denis Rancourt](#)

To: [Niels Harrit](#)

Cc: [Graeme MacQueen](#) ; [Anthony Hall](#) ; [Kevin Barrett](#) ; [Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#) ; [Paul McArthur](#) ; [Frances Shure](#) ; [Charlotte Dennett](#) ; [Patrick Biron](#) ; [Michael Pengue](#) ; [Michel Chossudovsky](#) ; [Barry Zwicker](#) ; [Jacques Marcille](#) ; [Heidi Rimke](#) ; [Adnan Zuberi](#) ; [Jason](#) ; [Carol Brouillet](#) ; [Noel Glynn](#) ; [STS](#) ; [John Duddy](#) ; [John McMurtry](#) ; [Dr. M. Elmasry](#) ; [Steve Jones](#) ; [Ryan, Kevin](#)

Sent: Sunday, November 14, 2010 9:34 PM

Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

Hi Niels,

It appears you did not read the actual article:

<http://activistteacher.blogspot.com/2010/11/editor-in-chief-resigned-over-harrit-et.html>

This is the **SECOND** editor in chief to resign over your article.

This one is a man (the first was a woman) and his name is Professor Lucio Frydman.

In his Nov. 11th letter of response to me (posted) he states that "in no way" does he agree with the conclusions of your paper.

I have put forth clear scientific criticism of the methods, data, and interpretations in your "peer reviewed" paper.

I have also proposed a simple explanation of your false results.

Again, here it is:

<http://climateguy.blogspot.com/2010/11/peer-review-of-harrit-et-al-on-911-cant.html>

From my perspective, it is you who has wasted resources. But now this mess must be cleared up.

Why not therefore answer my criticisms of your paper (the bullets in my post)?

-denis

On Fri, Nov 12, 2010 at 7:20 PM, Niels Harrit <> wrote:

Denis,

You are setting up a scheme for deliberate, systematic waste of my time ("..and so on..").

This is not gonna happen, since I have no time to waste.

Same thing with your comments to our paper. Don't wait for our response.

If you believe that you have an alternative hypothesis accounting for ALL the observations,

we suggest that you publish it, preferentially in a peer-reviewed journal.

Like we did.

The review process was only special in that one of the reviewers requested several, supplementary control experiments.

Overall, the process took three months.

My comments to the editor-in-chief's resignation can be seen here:

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/20614>

Her background:

<http://www.911blogger.com/node/19963>

You requested my publication list. I attach the latest version.

Since you also asked what I was doing these days, I have added two titles "in preparation".

You write on your blog:

"What is most unfortunate is that many Truthers will now spend much energy refuting my proposal."

Right! That would be unfortunate.

Fortunately, I won't.

Niels

----- Original Message -----

From: [Denis Rancourt](#)

To: [Niels Harrit](#)

Cc: [Graeme MacQueen](#) ; [Anthony Hall](#) ; [Kevin Barrett](#) ; [Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#) ; [Paul McArthur](#) ; [Frances Shure](#) ; [Charlotte Dennett](#) ; [Patrick Biron](#) ; [Michael Pengue](#) ; [Michel Chossudovsky](#) ; [Barry Zwicker](#) ; [Jacques Marcille](#) ; [Heidi Rimke](#) ; [Adnan Zuberi](#) ; [Jason](#) ; [Carol Brouillet](#) ; [Noel Glynn](#) ; [STS](#) ; [John Duddy](#) ; [John McMurtry](#) ; [Dr. M. Elmasry](#) ; [Steve Jones](#) ; [Ryan, Kevin](#)

Sent: Friday, November 12, 2010 2:32 AM

Subject: Re: A new post about the 911 Movement

Hi Niels.

Thank you for your patient explanations.

I suggest the following.

Accept that we post your arguments and number each point.

Then I can post my point by point reply, and I will number each point of my reply.

Then you can respond to my reply and so on, all public on the web.

This way all our peers and others can review our exchange and decide for themselves.

Your first entry could be the lead post on my blog and the rest would go as comments to this post. Your entries can be sent in cc to those on this list for verification.

Would that be a good way to proceed?

Also, could you give some details about how your article on nanothermite was peer reviewed by the journal? This matter has been put in some question:

<http://activistteacher.blogspot.com/2010/11/editor-in-chief-resigned-over-harrit-et.html>

-denis

On Thu, Nov 11, 2010 at 7:11 PM, Niels Harrit <> wrote:

Ok, Denis, let's take it again from the top – for the third time - really slow.

Newtons second law states that the force equals mass times acceleration:

$$F = m \times a$$

OK?

If a body is released without support it goes into free fall, which means that ALL the potential energy is converted into kinetic energy as it accelerates.

OK?

If a body lies on a table, the force it exerts on the surface will be counteracted by an equal force in the opposite direction from the table.

This is Newton 3rd.

OK?

The body does not move.

Unless, if the body is too heavy, the table breaks. The body does some work, which can be calculated as force times distance:

$$W = F \times l$$

OK?

Once the work is done, and the body has moved closer to the earth, it continues in free fall with whatever is left of its potential energy after it has destroyed the table.

OK?

You claim that the towers collapsed due to gravity. Your condition – that some central elements should be damaged - is irrelevant to this energy balance (vide infra).

The potential energy of one tower was roughly 4×10^{11} Joule according to FEMA. Your equivalent of 100 tons TNT is less.

Observation:

The top of WTC1 came down – with sudden(!) onset – and with constant (!) acceleration equal 2/3 (two thirds) of free fall. You

agreed to this number (courtesy David Chandler) in our radio debate (triumphant: "It is much less than free fall").

In that moment, you lost two thirds of your argument.

A downward acceleration of $2/3$ G means, that the interaction (Newton 3rd) with the support is only $1/3$ of its static weight. OK?

So, for all the damage which you assign to the potential energy is only left:

$1/3 \times 4 \times 10^{11}$ Joule = 36300 kWh (kWh is a unit easier to embrace for most).

You cannot use the same potential energy to accelerate the top section and to crush the rest of the building. Energy can only be spent once.

The Japanese physicist Reijo Yli-Karjanmaa has estimated, that the energy needed for crushing the concrete in one tower and expanding the dust cloud is 245.000 kWh.

<http://www.saunalahti.fi/wtc2001/energia3.htm>

In my opinion, his estimate of the concrete content is too high. So let us say 200.000 kWh to crush the concrete and expand the cloud.

Now your energy balance is IN THE RED (deficit) by 164.000 kWh.

And you haven't yet broken one single steel beam joint, you haven't twisted a single beam, you haven't cut one single beam.

There were 80.000 – 90.000 tons of structural steel in one tower and in your proposed collapse mechanism there simply isn't headroom for doing the job.

End of story – your story.

Maybe you have been blinded by the fact, that 4×10^{11} Joule does indeed correspond to 100 tons TNT.

True. But that ain't very much energy. Explosives are not particularly rich in chemical energy. Burning coal in oxygen develops much more heat.

But explosives are FAST, and if you come by one day for a little chemistry course, I will explain to you why that is.

If all the potential energy of the towers ended up as heat in the rubble – as it would if the collapse were driven only by gravity as you propose – the temperature rise would have been only 2-3 degr. centigrade.

So, if you are looking for another challenge, you then try to explain the well documented occurrence of molten iron in the rubble and the thermal mapping by NASA. Not to mention the crazy emissions of unexpected chemicals as they have been documented by Kevin Ryan et al. <http://www.springerlink.com/content/f67q6272583h86n4/>

In our debate, you even claimed that the potential energy could be concentrated in "hot spots" in the building. This is totally rubbish, in violation with fundamental principles of thermodynamics.

But you seem to ignore these kind of obstacles.
I wish, I could do the same.

Sorry, but we have Newton and the other old guys on our team.
And Sir Isaac has never lost a game.

N-I-E-L-S HARRIT

----- Original Message -----

From: [Graeme MacQueen](#)

To: '[Denis Rancourt](#)'; '[Anthony Hall](#)'; '[Kevin Barrett](#)'; '[Jeremy Rothe-Kushel](#)'; '[Paul McArthur](#)'; '[Frances Shure](#)'; '[Charlotte Dennett](#)'; '[Patrick Biron](#)'; '[Michael Pengue](#)'; '[Michel Chossudovsky](#)'; '[Barry Zwicker](#)'; '[Jacques Marcille](#)'; '[Heidi Rimke](#)'; '[Adnan Zuberi](#)'; '[Jason](#)'; '[Carol Brouillet](#)'; '[Noel Glynn](#)'; '[STS](#)'; '[John Duddy](#)'; '[John McMurtry](#)'; '[Dr. M. Elmasry](#)'; '[Niels Harrit](#)'

Sent: Thursday, November 11, 2010 10:17 PM

Subject: RE: A new post about the 911 Movement

Dear Denis:

Thanks for forwarding this piece. These issues have been discussed in detail for years and I think we should avoid repeating what others have said. However, despite my reluctance to get involved in another debate I can't help replying to a couple of your comments.

(1) "And the Movement needs to stop spinning its wheels with extreme theories such as: directed energy weapons, all the video is fake and there were no planes, and the two towers necessarily came down in controlled explosives-assisted demolitions with or without the help of tonnes of nanothermite."

Comment: I agree that we need to concentrate on theories that are solid, but I disagree that controlled demolition is in the same category as no-planes, directed energy weapons and so on. The CD hypothesis is based on a good deal of evidence, and such evidence continues to accumulate. Adnan has pointed to the fact that the CD in WTC 7 cannot easily be separated from the issue of the Towers' collapses. The Towers were certainly brought down in a different way than WTC 7 but the evidence that they were deliberately demolished with the help of explosives is plentiful.

(2) "A standing building is a bomb waiting to be ignited (by an earthquake or anything capable of taking out structural elements). The gravitational potential energy that is released when a tall structure collapses is enormous. The higher and more massive the structure, the greater the energy release.

Indeed, this is the basis of controlled demolition in which gravitational energy not explosives does virtually all the destructive work. The explosives are only used to take out key structural elements and gravity does the rest."

Comment: Well, I have to disagree with your opening statement. A standing building, if it is built well, is not much like a bomb at all. I don't think the metaphor helps us. A well designed steel-framed skyscraper will not come down easily, and I'm sure we agree that this is one of the reasons controlled demolition is necessary. Yes, the explosives in a standard CD take out structural elements so that gravity can do most of the work, but taking out the structural elements is not a piece of cake: it is planned carefully, especially when it's important to have a symmetrical collapse. The task of those who think CD was not used on the Towers is to explain how the key structural elements were taken out given that they were attacked neither by the planes nor the fires. By this I mean that even if the planes and fires were successful in critically weakening the structure--and I have seen no convincing evidence of this in thousands of pages of the NIST reports--they weakened this structure only in the area where damage was observed. In the North Tower this was roughly floors 92-98. There is no evidence they caused major damage outside this region; NIST certainly does not claim this. So, even if we accept that this part of the NT was so badly damaged that it began to catastrophically collapse (NIST has not convinced me that this happened), then we still have to explain how we get from this sort of local collapse to the collapse of the whole building. You've tried to give us a scenario in which this might happen, but I don't find it convincing and I don't find that it meshes with the evidence we've got. For example:

(a) We have a building where the top quite suddenly begins to come down on the rest of the building but where this top section accelerates smoothly right through the period when it's supposedly destroying the powerful, intact structure beneath it. Not possible. Something else has clearly already destroyed the structural resistance of the lower part of the Tower. No explanation of the collapse will work if it doesn't explain this smooth acceleration.

(b) We have a scenario where eyewitnesses report explosions before and at the beginning of the collapses. Many eyewitnesses clearly say that the explosions were destroying the building;

several compare the process they observed to CD. There are over 150 eyewitnesses to explosions. They are, as far as we can tell, normal people in full possession of their senses. Many (most) were firefighters with extensive experience in burning buildings and in burning high-rises. The explosions typically found in fires do not fit the profile: they could not have played a significant role in destroying these buildings nor would firefighters have in this case said that what they observed seemed to be bombs or secondary devices.

We recently got, through a FOIA request, yet another set of eyewitnesses to these explosions:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8DRVqSSyb8&feature=related>

I lay great stress on eyewitnesses because I believe it is a crucial strategy of authoritarian institutions to dismiss and attempt to de-legitimize normal human beings and their physical senses. ("You did not see what you thought you saw. We are the ones who will tell you what you saw.")

The eyewitness evidence is corroborated by other kinds of evidence: still photos and videos, which show patterns of rapid and forceful ejections down the length of the Towers; and physical evidence. In the last category, quite apart from the nanothermite (I will let Niels deal with that one if he chooses to), there is the evidence of extreme heat. This evidence does not depend on people in the 9/11 truth movement—it has been documented by other researchers—and I have seen no convincing innocent explanation of it to date. It suggests pre-planted agents (incendiaries or explosives) used to bring down the buildings. These different forms of evidence converge in the CD hypothesis.

All the best,

Graeme

From: Denis Rancourt [mailto:]

Sent: Wednesday, November 10, 2010 8:02 PM

To: Anthony Hall; Kevin Barrett; Jeremy Rothe-Kushel; Paul McArthur; Frances Shure; Charlotte Dennett; Patrick Biron; Michael Pengue; Michel Chossudovsky; Barry Zwicker; Jacques Marcille;

Heidi Rimke; Graeme MacQueen; Adnan Zuberi; Jason; Carol Brouillet; Noel Glynn; STS; John Duddy; John McMurtry; Dr. M. Elmasry; Niels Harrit
Subject: A new post about the 911 Movement

A new post about the 911 Movement:

<http://activistteacher.blogspot.com/2010/11/911-movement-needs-clean-up-and-focus.html>

-denis